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#3

# I HEART SKULL CRUSHER!



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# I HEART SKULL CRUSHER!

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"MOM AND DAD,  
I HAVE A TEAM!"



WE CAN'T WIN  
IF YOU DON'T  
PASS THE  
BALL!

I DON'T TRUST  
ANYONE BUT  
THEM.

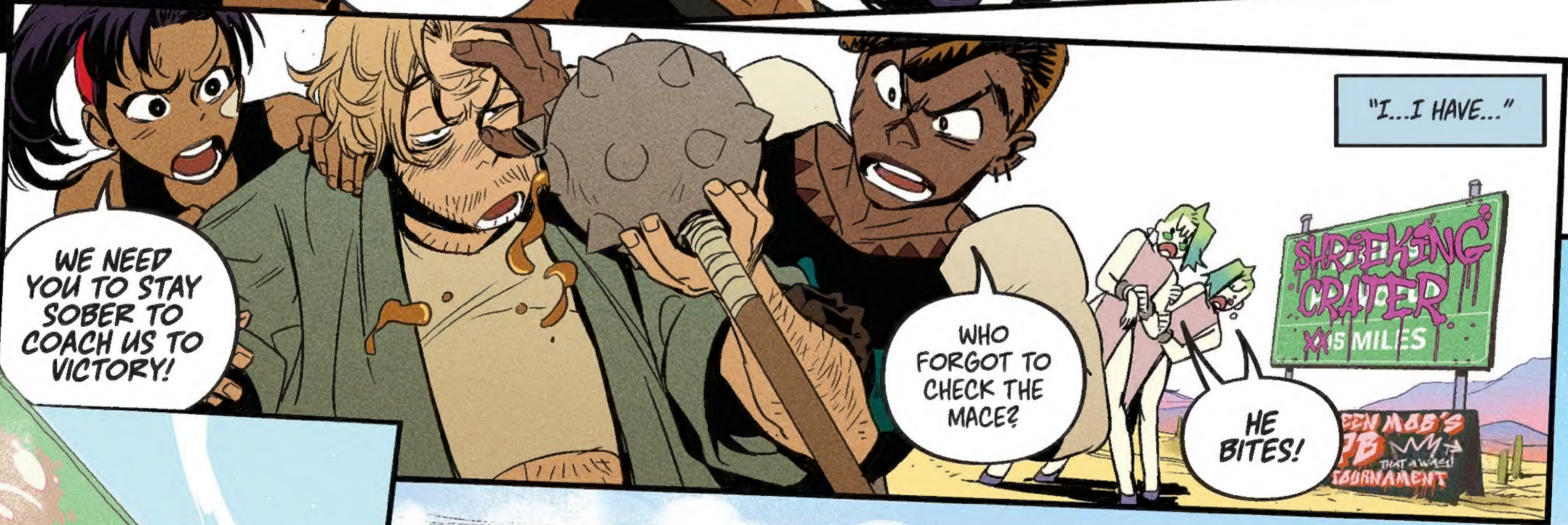


I'M  
FORWARD  
STRIKER--

I'M  
FORWARD  
STRIKER--

OVER MY  
DEAD BODY  
YOU ARE!

"I HAVE..."



WE NEED  
YOU TO STAY  
SOBER TO  
COACH US TO  
VICTORY!

WHO  
FORGOT TO  
CHECK THE  
MACE?

HE  
BITES!

"I...I HAVE..."



"I DON'T  
HAVE A TEAM.

"I HAVE A COLLECTION OF  
MEAN PEOPLE WHO HATE  
EACH OTHER. AND THE  
NEWEST PLAYER...WELL..."

I'VE FOUND A  
GOALIE! SAY HELLO  
TO YOUR NEW  
TEAMMATE...



# DAVID

# THE MUTANT BEAR-MAN



DAVID!

ROAAAAAR!

STATUS:  
RECORD:

Actually just a bear.

**BEST MOVE:** The guy who traded him to Coach said he was a mutant and a goalie! These were LIES  
Using his bear claws and his bear teeth, because he is 100% a bear.

**ATK/ 3000** **DEF/ 3000**

ISC 1/1

HE'S A BEAR!

NO, HE'S A MUTANT BEAR-MAN.

WHAT PART OF HIM IS A MAN?

HE'S WEARING A HAT. SHOW ME A BEAR THAT CAN DO THAT.

THAT ONE! THAT ONE RIGHT THERE!

OH YOU SIMPLE RUBE. HE'S WEARING THE HAT BACKWARDS. THE COOLEST WAY TO WEAR A HAT.

NO MERE BEAR WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT!





"QUEEN MOB HASN'T JUST PUT TOGETHER THE **BIGGEST S.P.B. TOURNAMENT EVER.** SHE'S CREATED THE **DEADLIEST.**"

"WE'RE THE **ONLY AMATEURS** TO MAKE IT IN. EVERY TEAM WE WILL FACE IS MORE SEASONED, MORE PREPARED, AND MORE **BETTER** THAN US."

"I DON'T THINK 'MORE BETTER' IS A THING."

"YOU WANT ME TO MAKE SENSE? STOP LEAVING ME TIED UP IN THE SUN!"

"BUT THE **TEAMS** ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES COMPETING. SO ARE THE **TYRANT OVERLORDS.**"

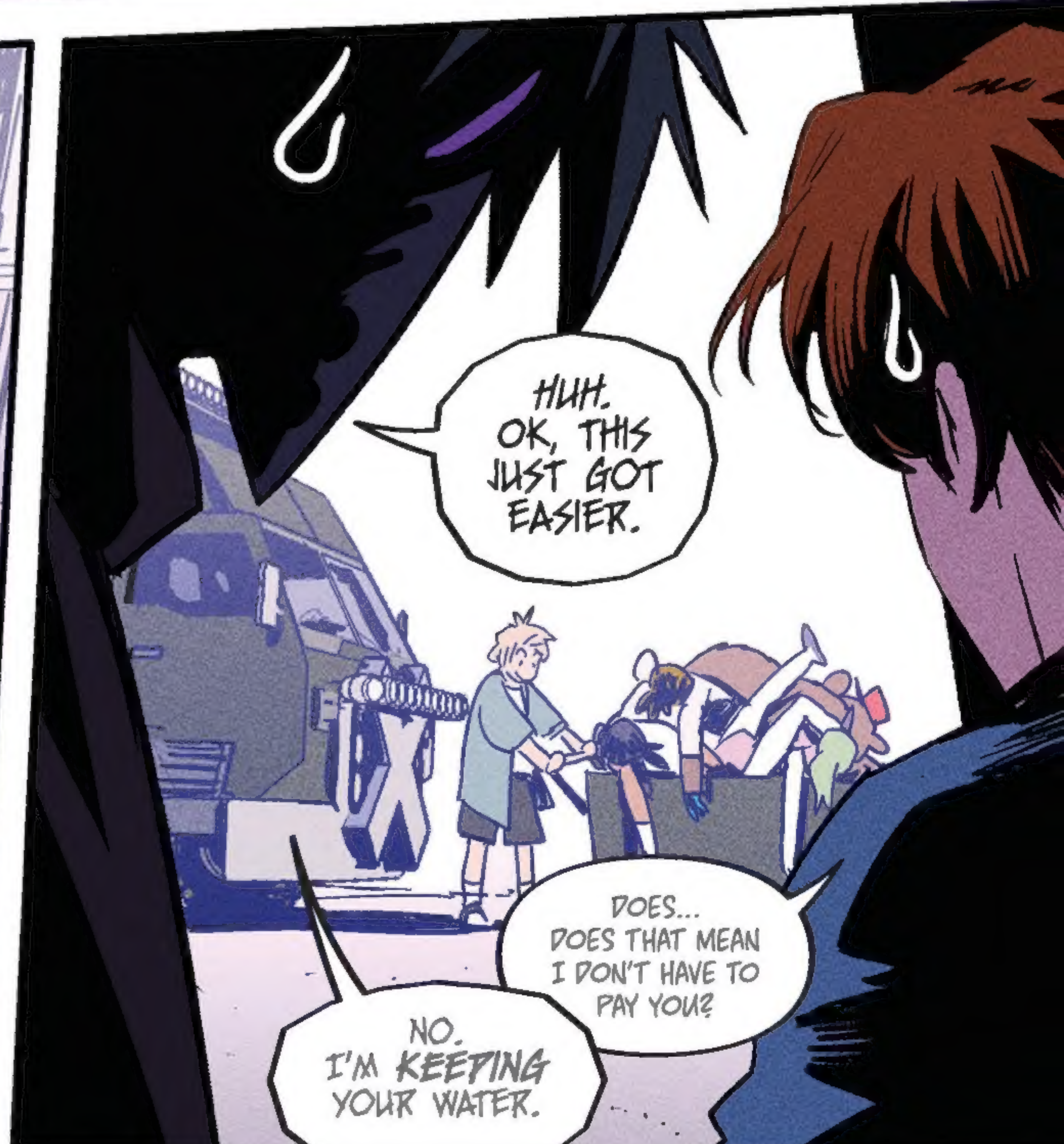
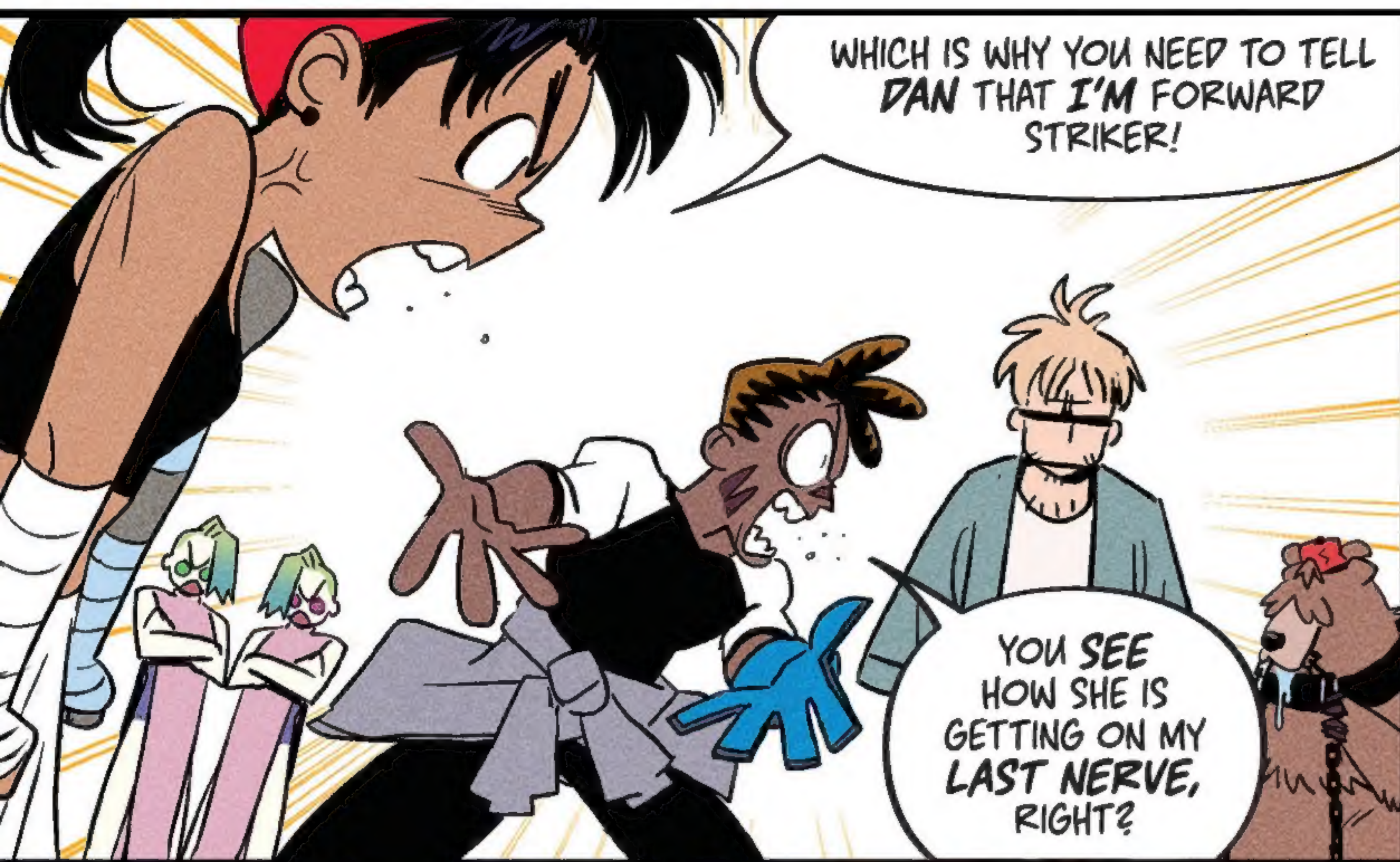
"THE **RULERS** OF EACH STATE IN THE AMERICAN WASTE. THERE'S NOTHING QUEEN MOB LOVES MORE THAN A SHOW, AND EVERY SINGLE TYRANT IS COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER TO PUT ON THE **BEST ONE.**"

"WHICH MEANS WE NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE **TYRANT'S SURPRISE.** THE RANDOM CHAOS ELEMENT THE OVERLORDS AND LADIES THROW IN AT HALF-TIME."

"FAILURE TO PLEASE QUEEN MOB IS A **DEATH SENTENCE** FOR THE TYRANTS. AND THEY'RE KNOWN FOR TAKING IT OUT ON THE **PLAYERS** THAT **COST THEM** BEFORE THEY GO."

"WHICH MEANS YOU NEED TO START WORKING AS A **TEAM...OR NONE** OF US WILL MAKE IT."









ALRIGHT TEAM...

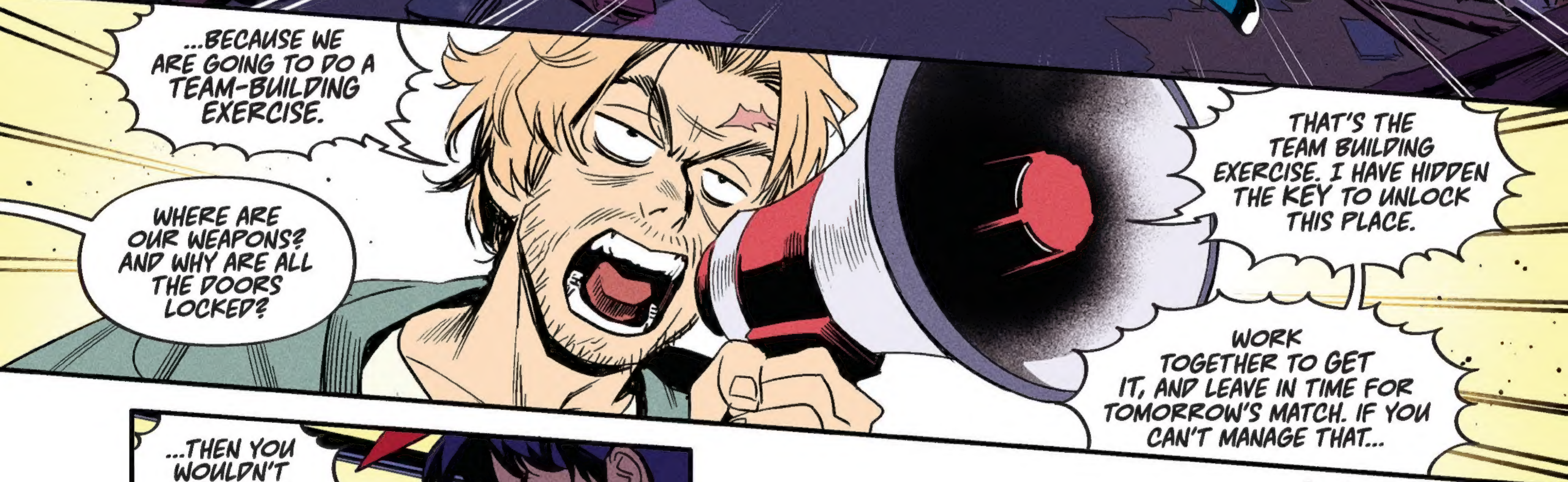
WHA...?

...LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN.

COACH, DID YOU KNOCK US OUT?

DARTED WITH OUR OWN WEAPON!

THE FACT THAT YOU WERE SO DISTRACTED BY ARGUING I COULD GET THE DROP ON YOU IS WHAT YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON! NOW SHUT UP...

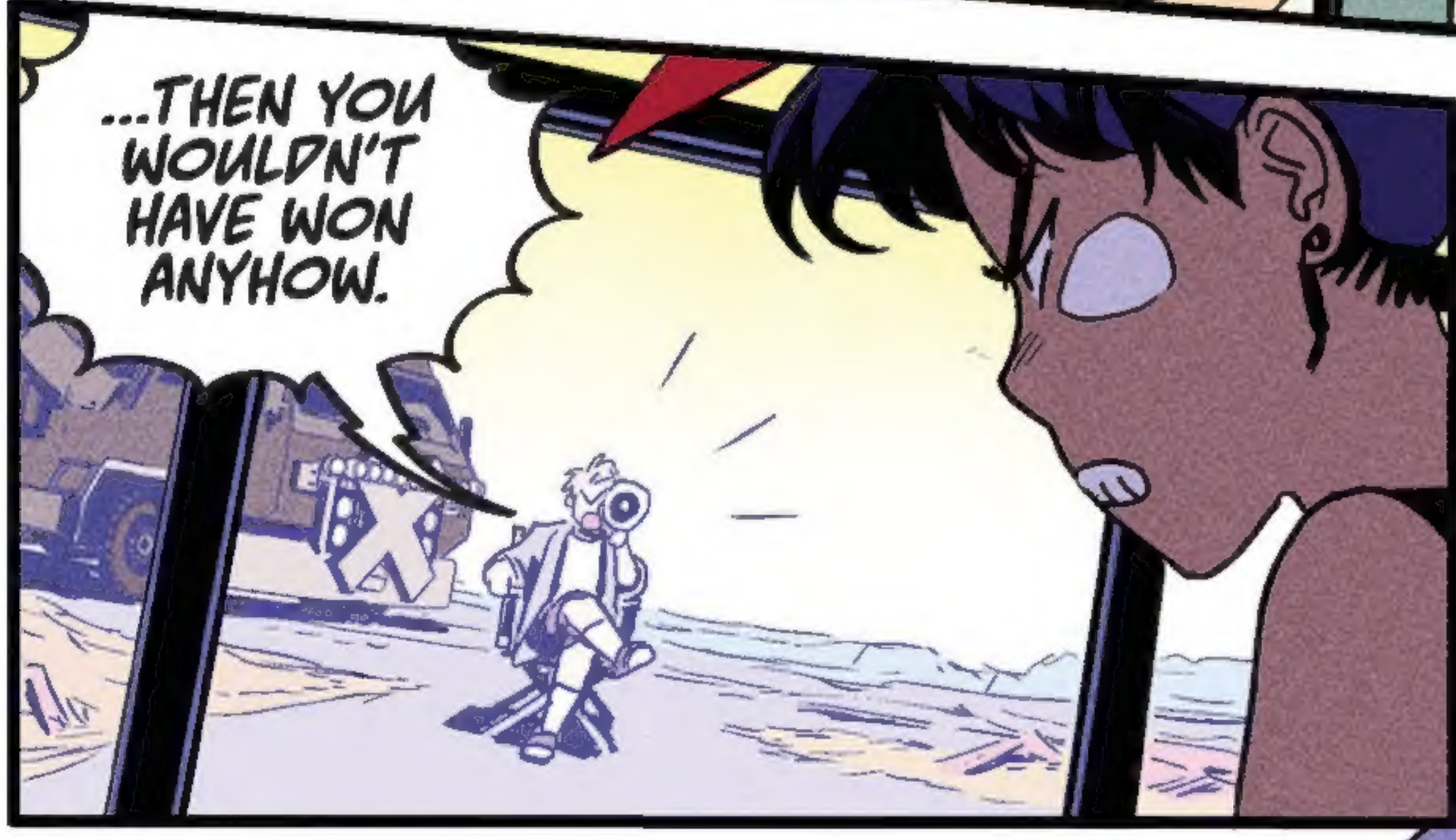


...BECAUSE WE ARE GOING TO DO A TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISE.

WHERE ARE OUR WEAPONS? AND WHY ARE ALL THE DOORS LOCKED?

THAT'S THE TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE. I HAVE HIDDEN THE KEY TO UNLOCK THIS PLACE.

WORK TOGETHER TO GET IT, AND LEAVE IN TIME FOR TOMORROW'S MATCH. IF YOU CAN'T MANAGE THAT...



...THEN YOU WOULDN'T HAVE WON ANYHOW.



UHHHHH, QUICK QUESTION.

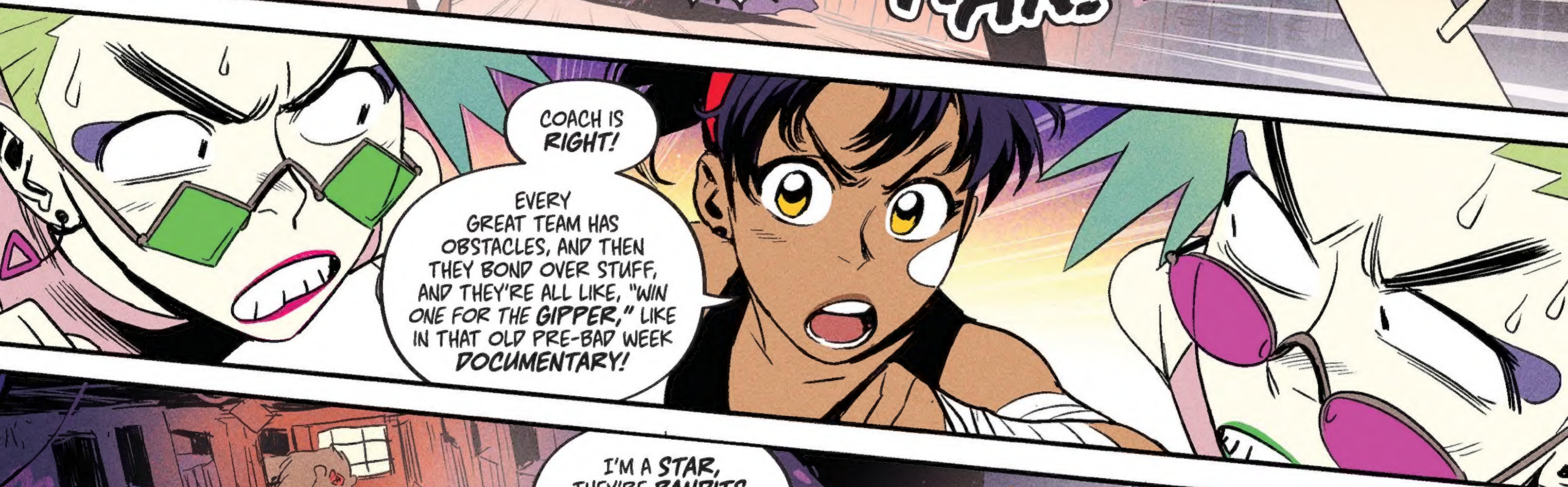
WHEN YOU SAY ALL OF US HAVE TO LEARN TO BE A TEAM. DO YOU MEAN...ALL OF US?

OF COURSE I MEAN EVERYONE.

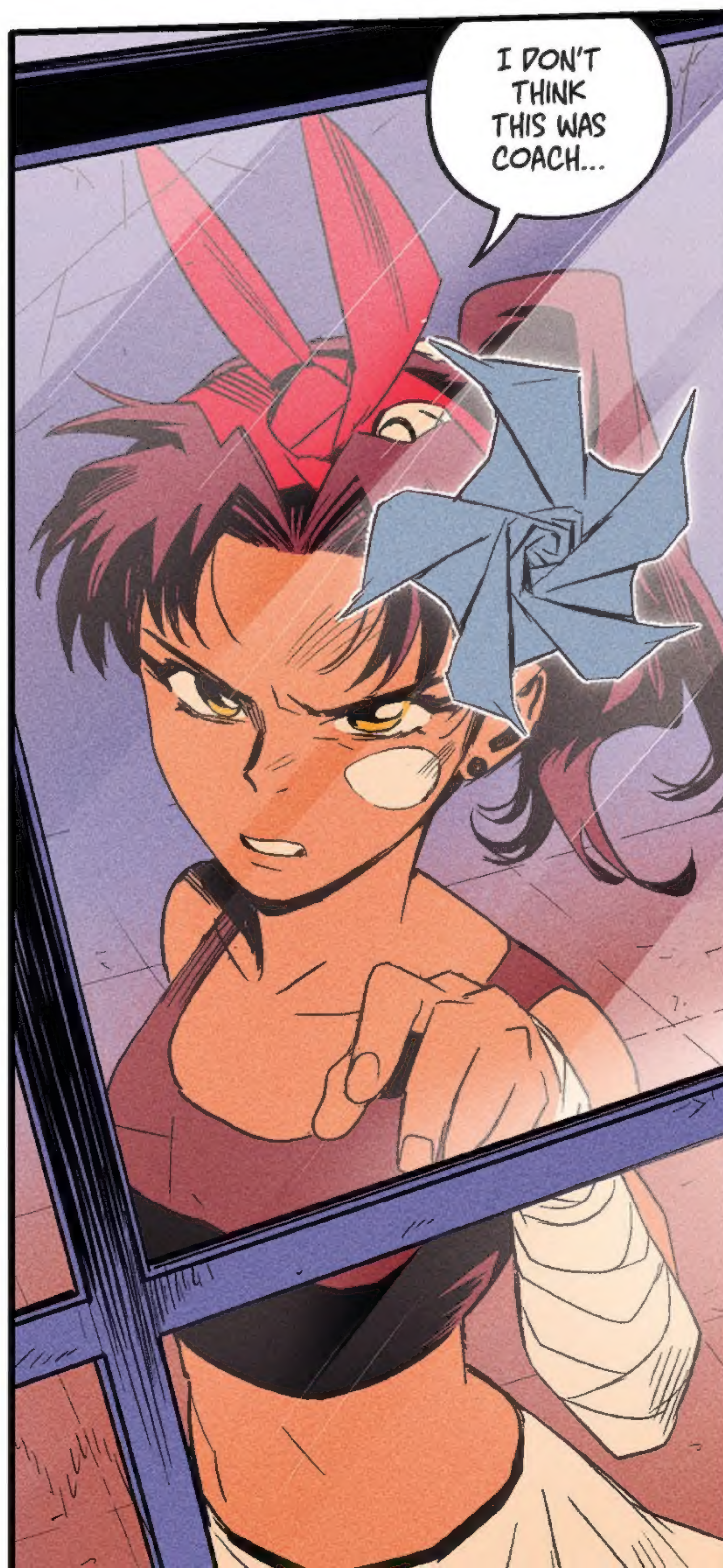
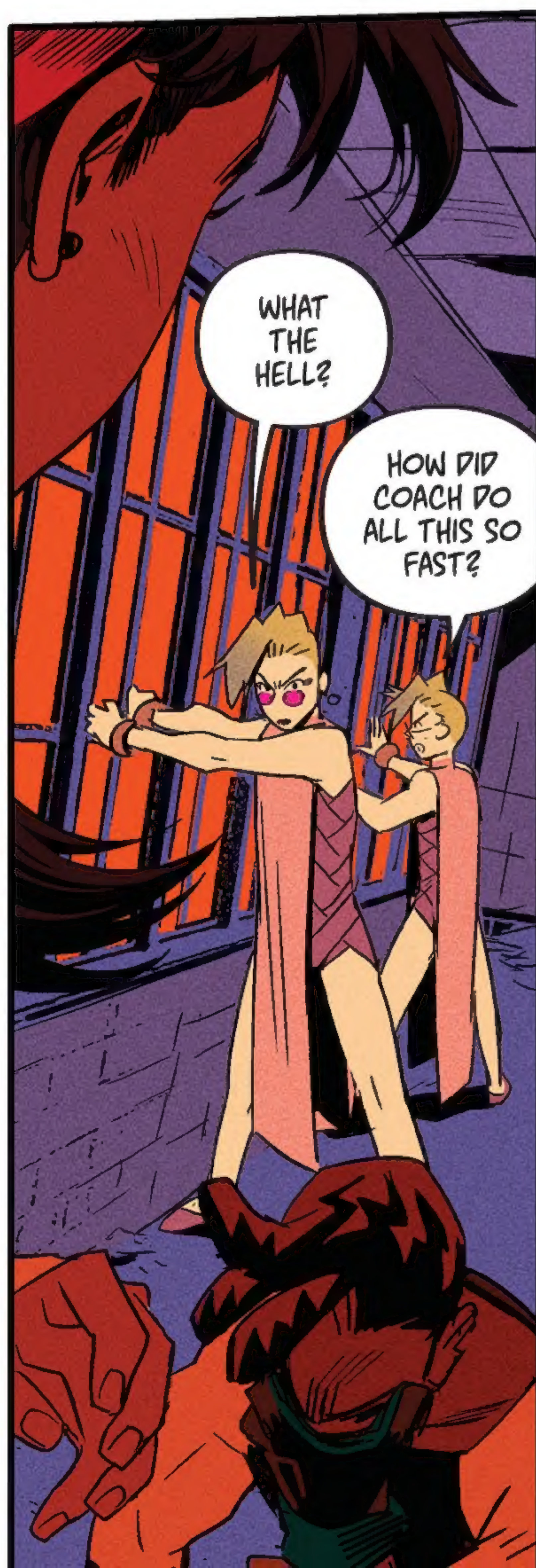
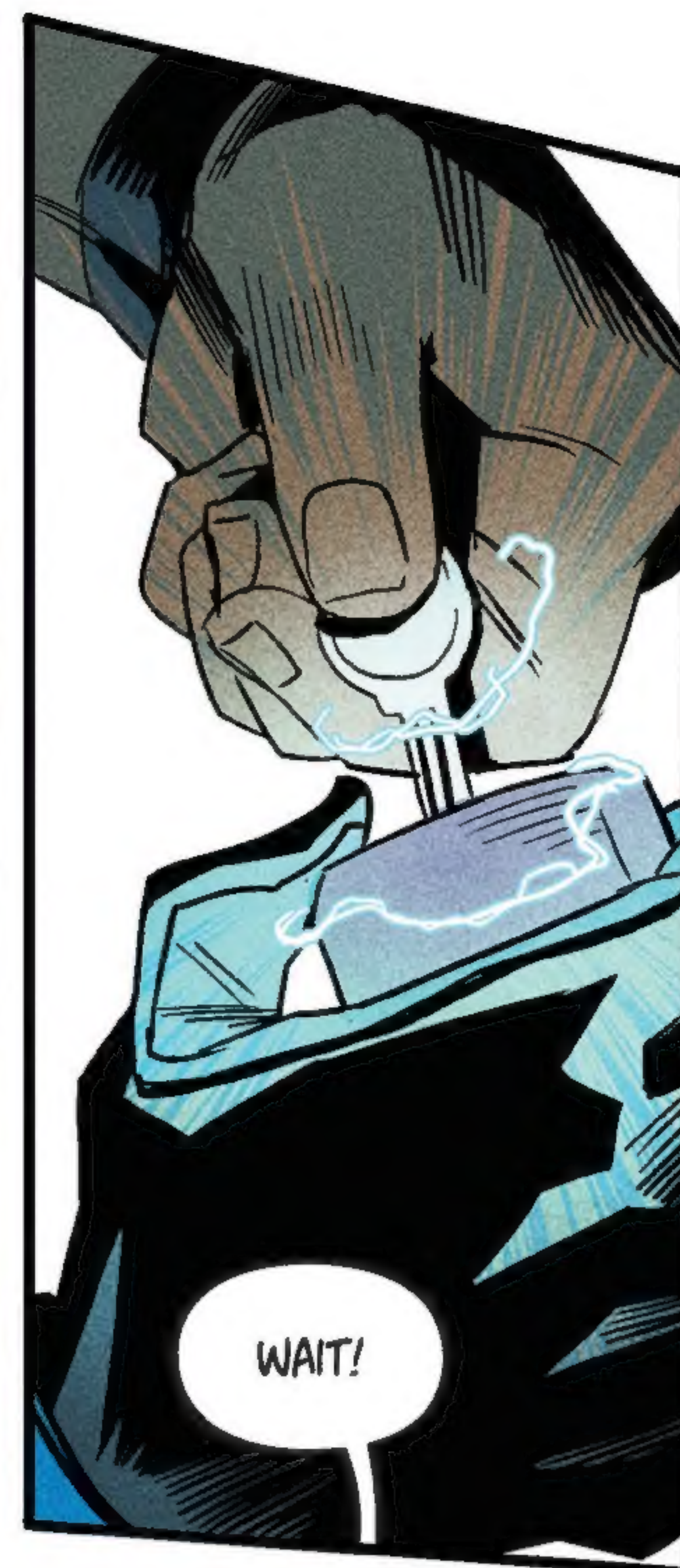
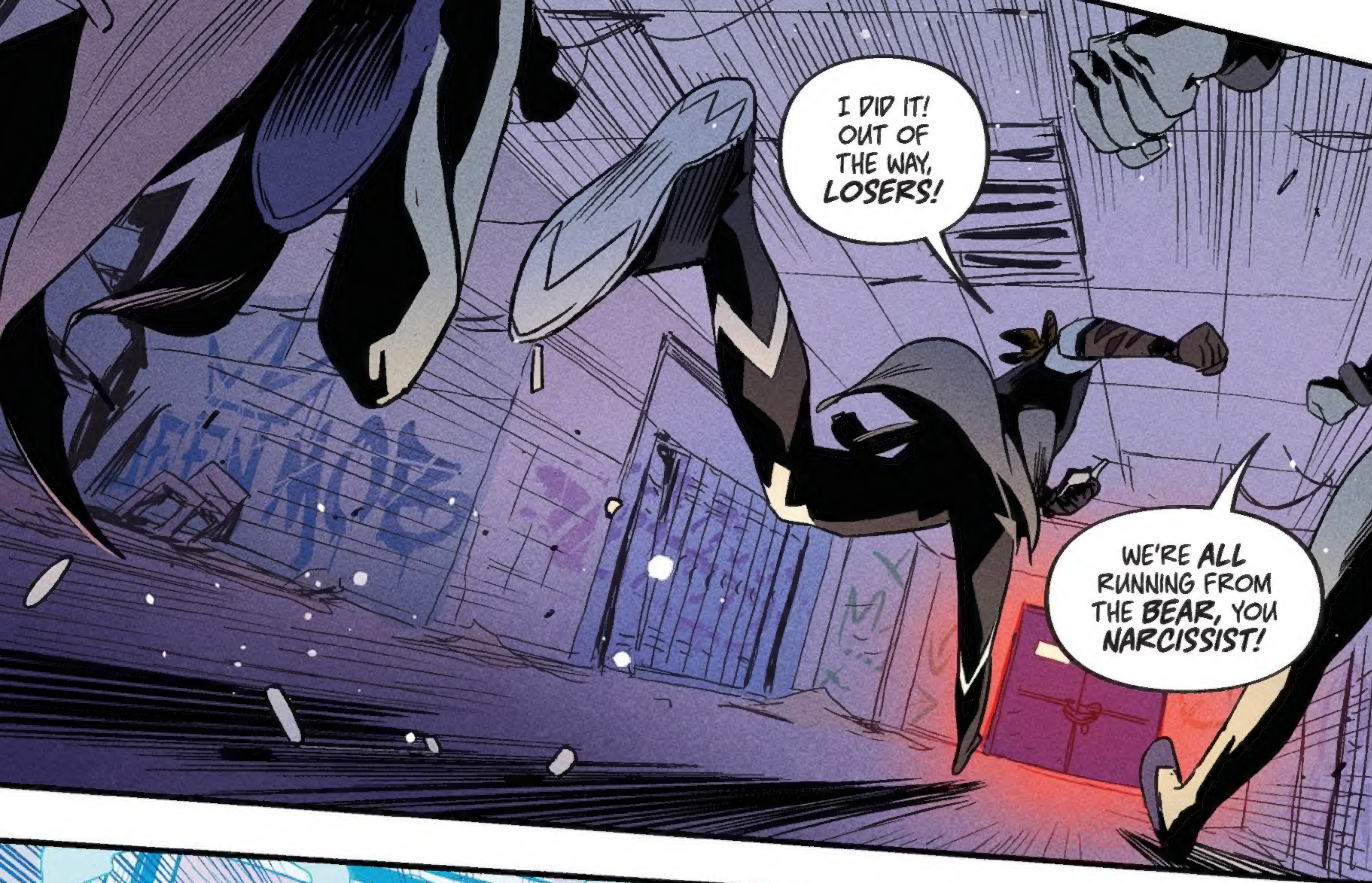


SO MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE DAVID!

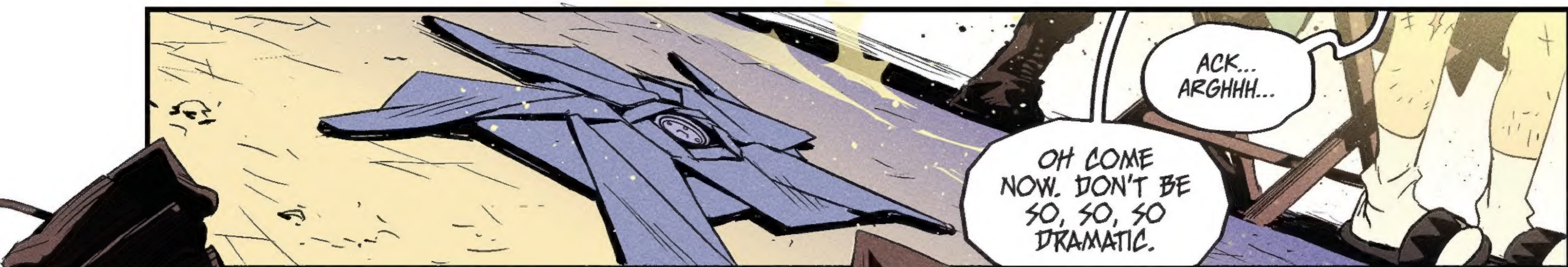












ACK...  
ARGHHH...

OH COME  
NOW. DON'T BE  
SO, SO, SO  
DRAMATIC.

IS THIS HOW YOU  
GREET YOUR OLD  
PLAYER?

JUST GOT  
SOFT, I  
GUESS--

STOP...KIDDING.  
YOU...POISON...NOT  
STRANGLE. MAKES...YOU  
PREDICTABLE.

IT MADE  
ME A **WINNER**.  
YOU MADE ME  
A **WINNER**.

WHICH  
MAKES ME  
CURIOUS ABOUT  
YOUR NEW TEAM,  
AND WHY YOU'D  
**HELP THEM**.

**HAHAHAHA!**  
COACH, YOU  
DON'T **HAVE**  
A HEART TO  
SOFTEN.

YOU'RE SO  
DAMN GOOD AT FINDING  
**KILLERS**. BROKEN CHILDREN  
WITH SHARP EDGES THAT YOU  
HONE 'TIL THEY CUT  
YOU TOO.

SHARPER  
THAN THE EDGE OF A  
BOTTLE. SO THAT'S WHERE YOU  
GO. YOU WERE HELPING BECAUSE  
THEY WERE HOLDING YOUR  
**OBLIVION HOSTAGE...**

NOW THEY'RE  
**NOT**. SO IT'S TIME  
FOR YOU TO DO  
WHAT YOU DO  
BEST...

...WALK  
AWAY.





I CAN'T BELIEVE THE OTHER TEAM BOOBY-TRAPPED OUR BONDING EXERCISE. DO YOU THINK IT'S SAFE TO GO OUT YET?

I THINK THE LAST BOOBY TRAP TOOK OUT MY HEARING.

I WANT TO BE ANYWHERE BUT HERE...

...WITH ANYONE BUT ALL OF YOU.

SHE'S HOW I FOUND MY PURPOSE.

SKULL-CRUSHER PLAYS WITH **CONFIDENCE**. THERE'S **DETERMINATION** IN EVERY MOVE.

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND...UNTIL I STEPPED ONTO THE FIELD FOR THE FIRST TIME. I WAS JUST A KID, BUT I COULD FEEL IT. THE EXCITEMENT.

THE **RIGHTNESS** OF THE WEAPON IN YOUR HAND. THE FEELING THAT THIS...

...THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE MEANT FOR.

WHY SKULL-CRUSHER?

WHY SKULL-CRUSHER?

THE LEAGUE IS FULL OF GREAT PLAYERS LIKE ME. WHY WORSHIP HER?

YOU'RE NOT IN THE LEAGUE.

I WILL BE. MY POINT: THERE'S HUNDREDS OF PLAYERS. WHY HER?

THE STRENGTH FLOWING UP FROM MY TWO FEET, PLANTED FIRMLY ON THE GROUND.

THE **RIGHTNESS** OF THE WEAPON IN YOUR HAND. THE FEELING THAT THIS...

...THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE MEANT FOR.



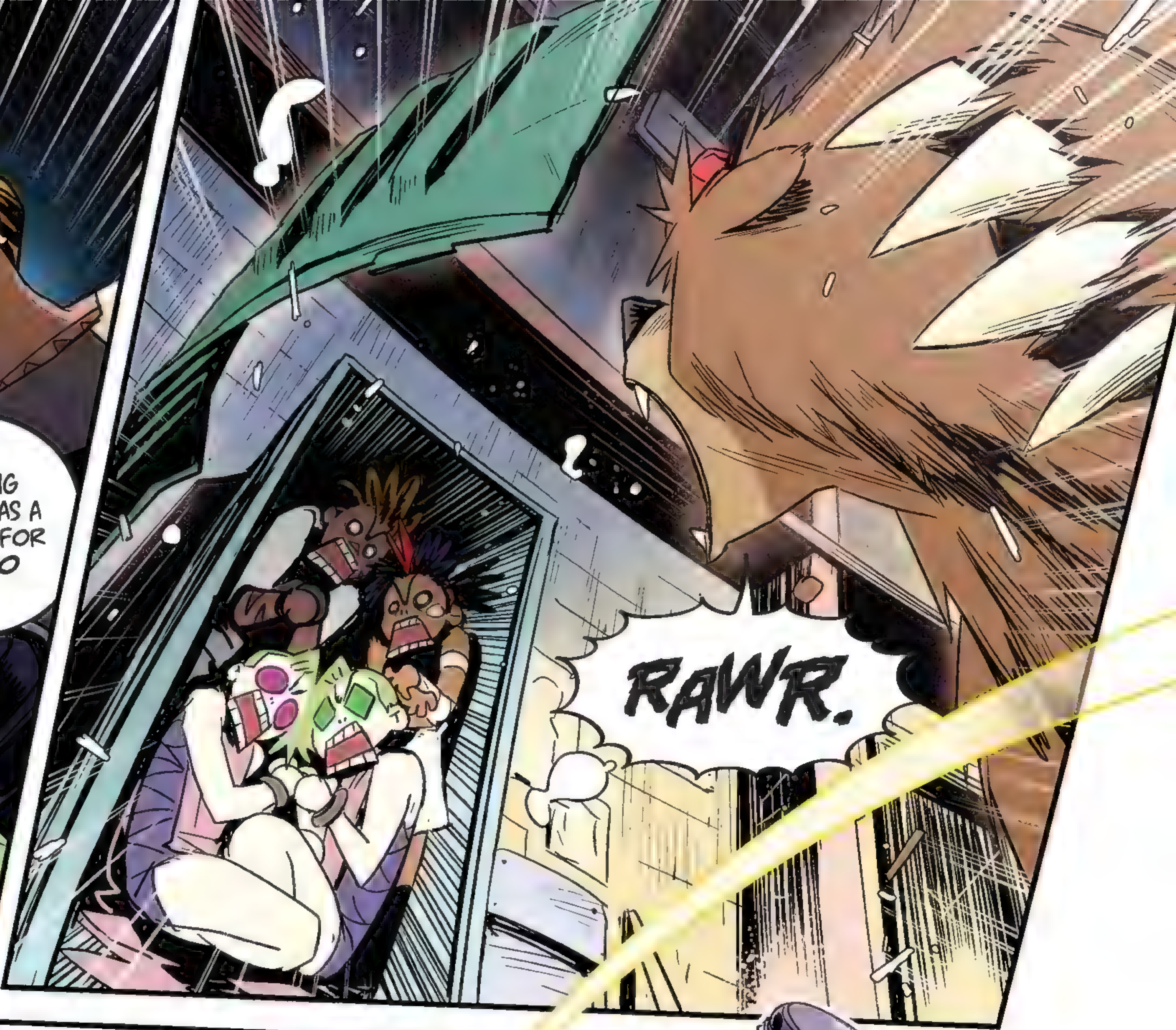


DO NOT FALL IN LOVE ON TOP OF US!

WHAT?!

I AM NOT GOING TO BE USED AS A FOOTSTOOL FOR GOO-GOO EYES!

I LOVE SKULL-CRUSHER ONLY!



RAWR.



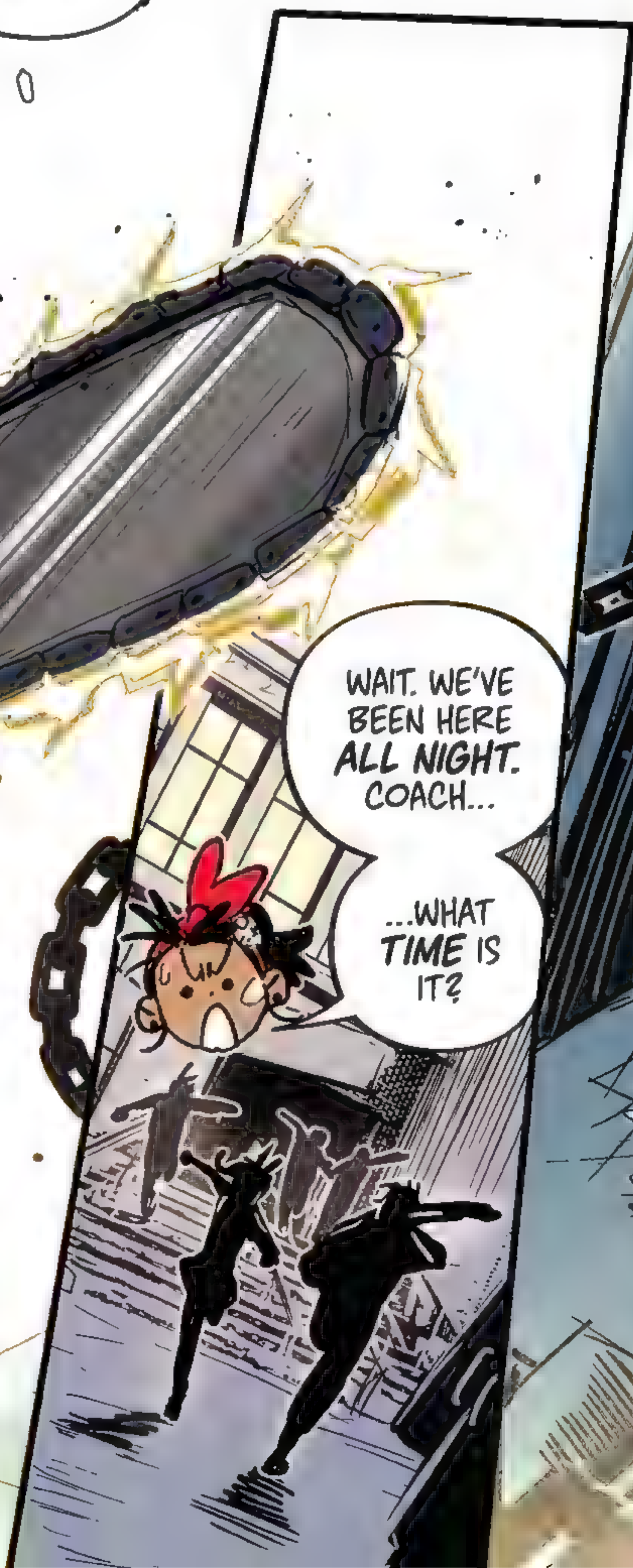
TONK

THIS WAY!



COACH! YOU DIDN'T ABANDON US!

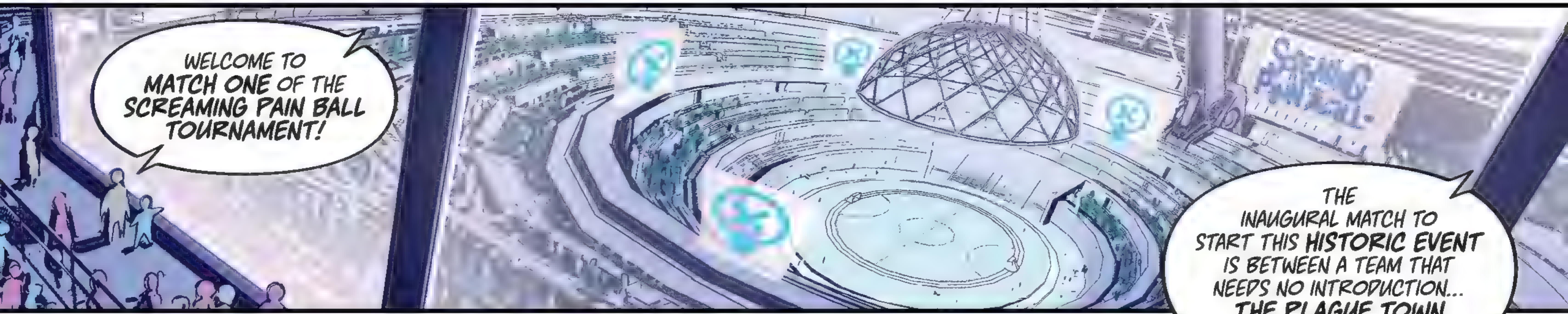
OF COURSE I DIDN'T! NOW LET'S GO--



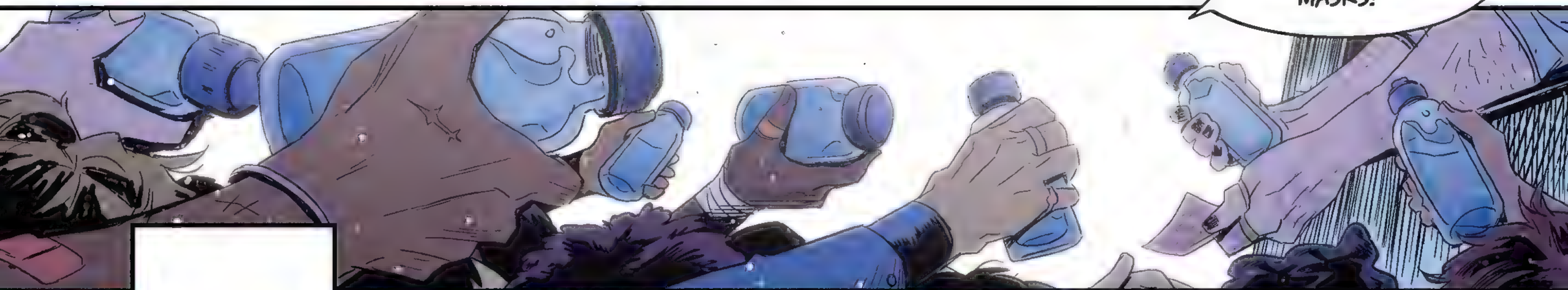
WAIT. WE'VE BEEN HERE ALL NIGHT. COACH...

...WHAT TIME IS IT?

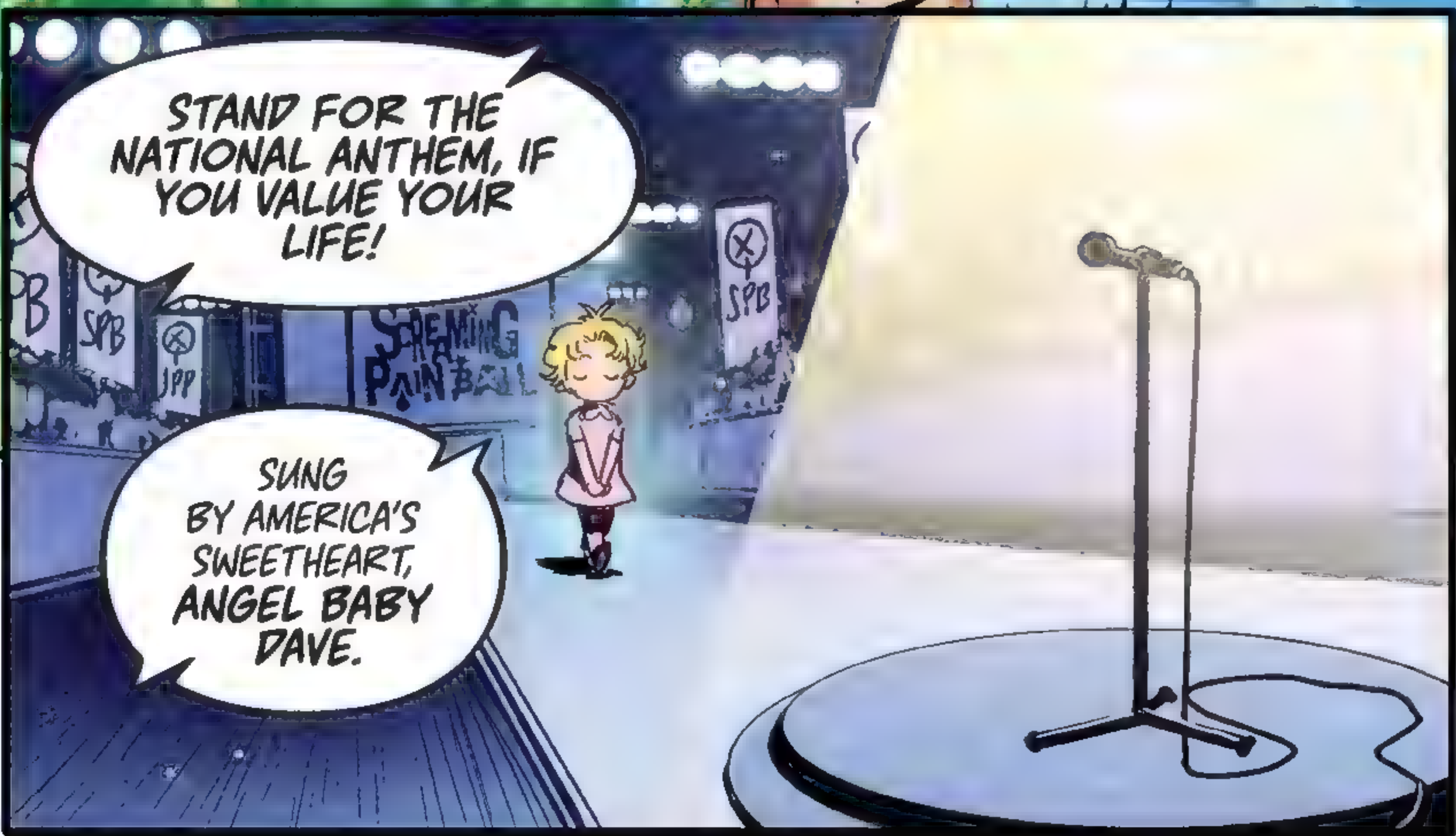





THE INAUGURAL MATCH TO START THIS HISTORIC EVENT IS BETWEEN A TEAM THAT NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION... THE PLAGUE TOWN MASKS!



WE ARE SIXTY SECONDS AWAY FROM A PODUNK LIL' FORFEIT. BUT FIRST--





A vibrant, comic-style illustration depicting a chaotic scene. In the foreground, a woman with wild blonde hair, wearing a pink top and purple skirt, sings passionately into a microphone. Behind her, a large, brown chicken is visible. To the right, a yellow truck is partially shown. The background features a blue sky with yellow lightning bolts and a cityscape. A large, stylized 'X' is drawn over the scene. The overall tone is energetic and surreal.

OOOHHH  
SAY CAN YOU SEE?  
BY THE LIGHT  
OF QUEEN  
MOB!

WE SURVIVED  
THE BAD WEEEEEK  
WHEN THE DOGS ALL  
JUST DIED  
OFF!

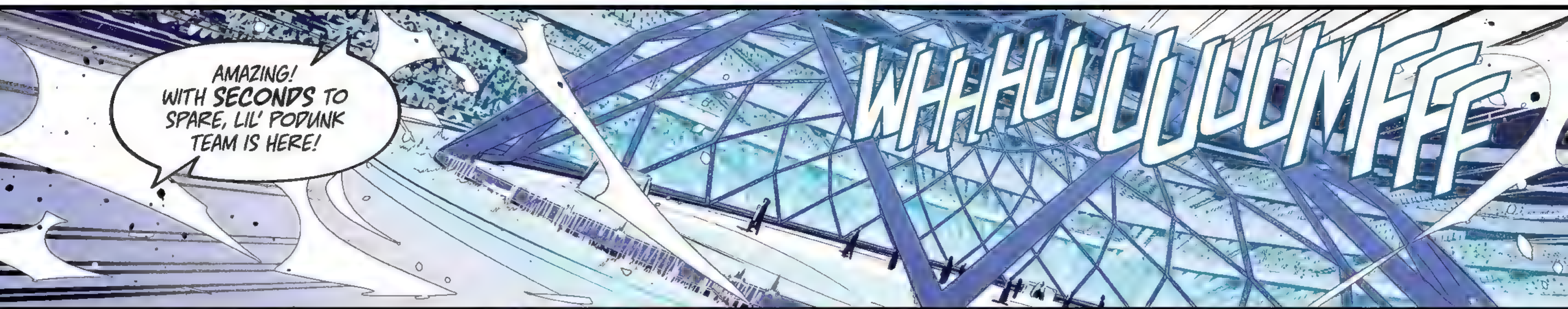
WHEN THE  
MOON WENT AWAY!  
AND THE RAIN GOT  
REAL WEEEEEIRD!

OH! SAY DO  
YOU STILL HAVE ACID  
BURNURNS FROM THAT  
THIIIME?

NOW THE  
LAAAAND IS QUEEN  
MOB'S!

ALL HAIIII  
QUEEEEN  
MOOOOOOOOB!



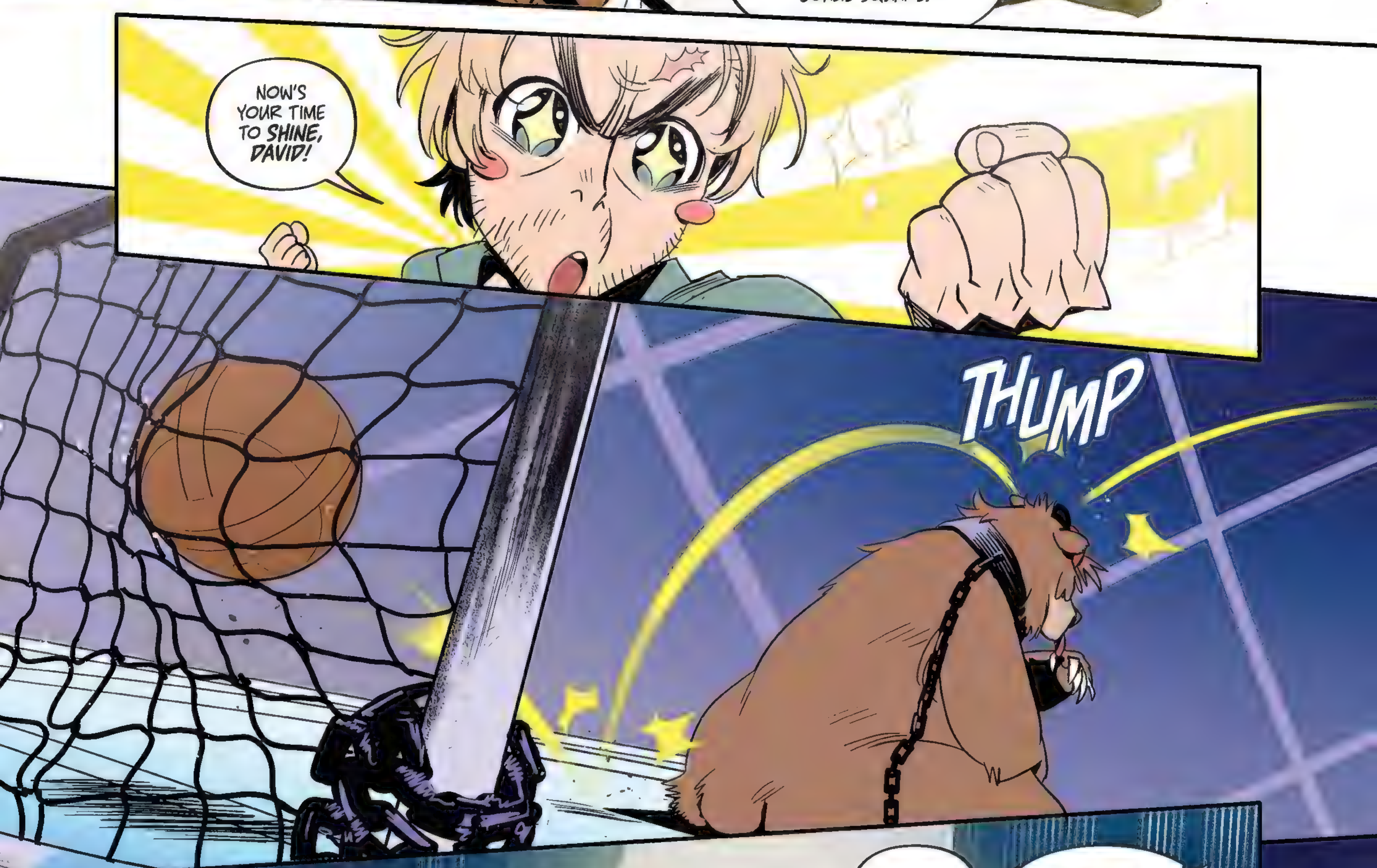






AHHH!

A NEAR MISS,  
BUT PLAGUE TOWN  
HAS POSSESSION AND IS  
BEE-LINING FOR PODUNK'S  
GOALIE SQUARE!



NOW'S  
YOUR TIME  
TO SHINE,  
DAVID!

THUMP



NO, DAVID,  
WHYYYY?

PLAGUE  
TOWN LEADS WITH  
EIGHT POINTS! NEW  
BALL IN PLAY, BUT IT  
LOOKS BAD FOR  
PODUNK!



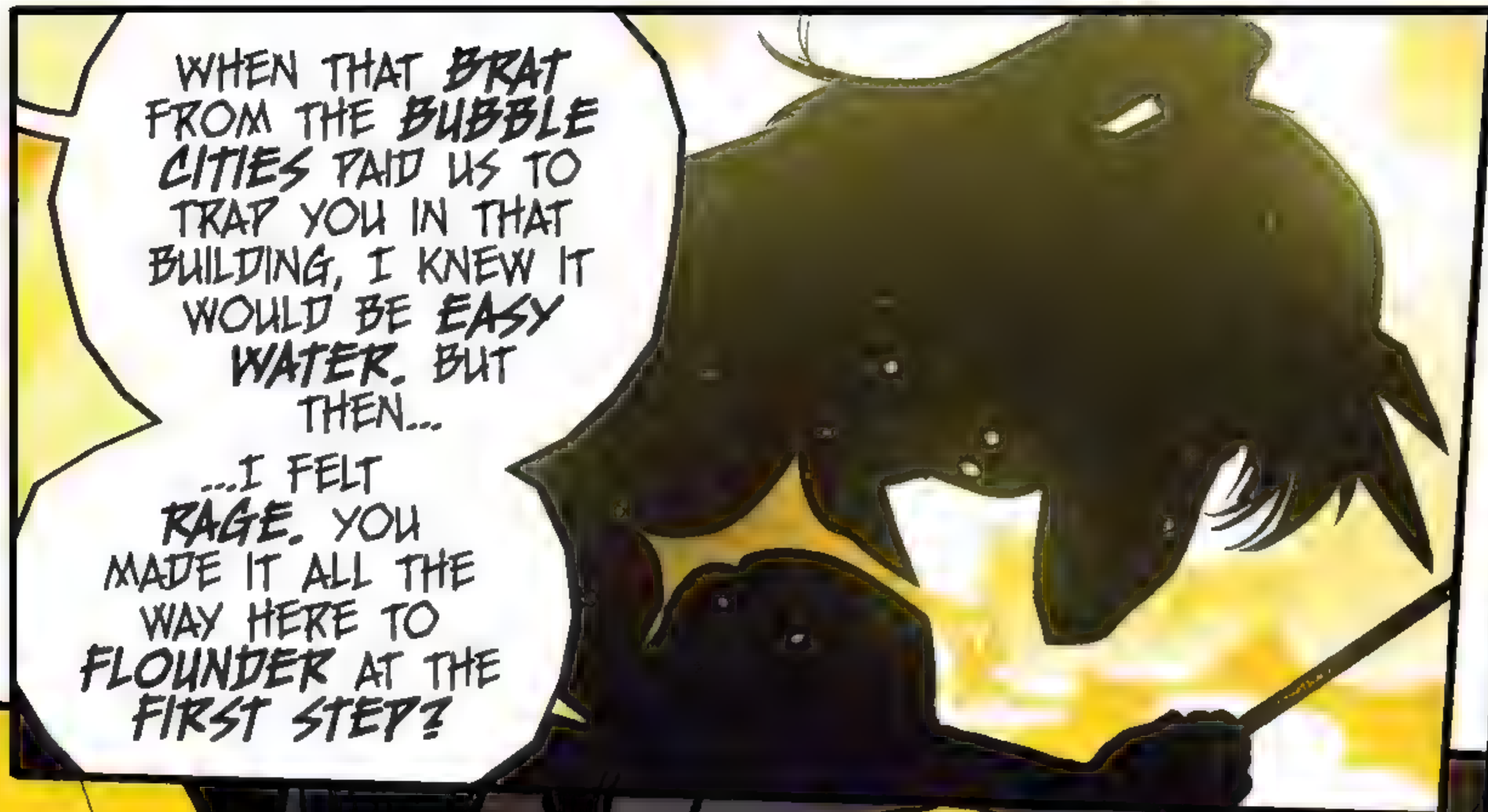
WE NEED  
TO MOVE UP  
THE TYRANT'S  
SURPRISE.

NOW.



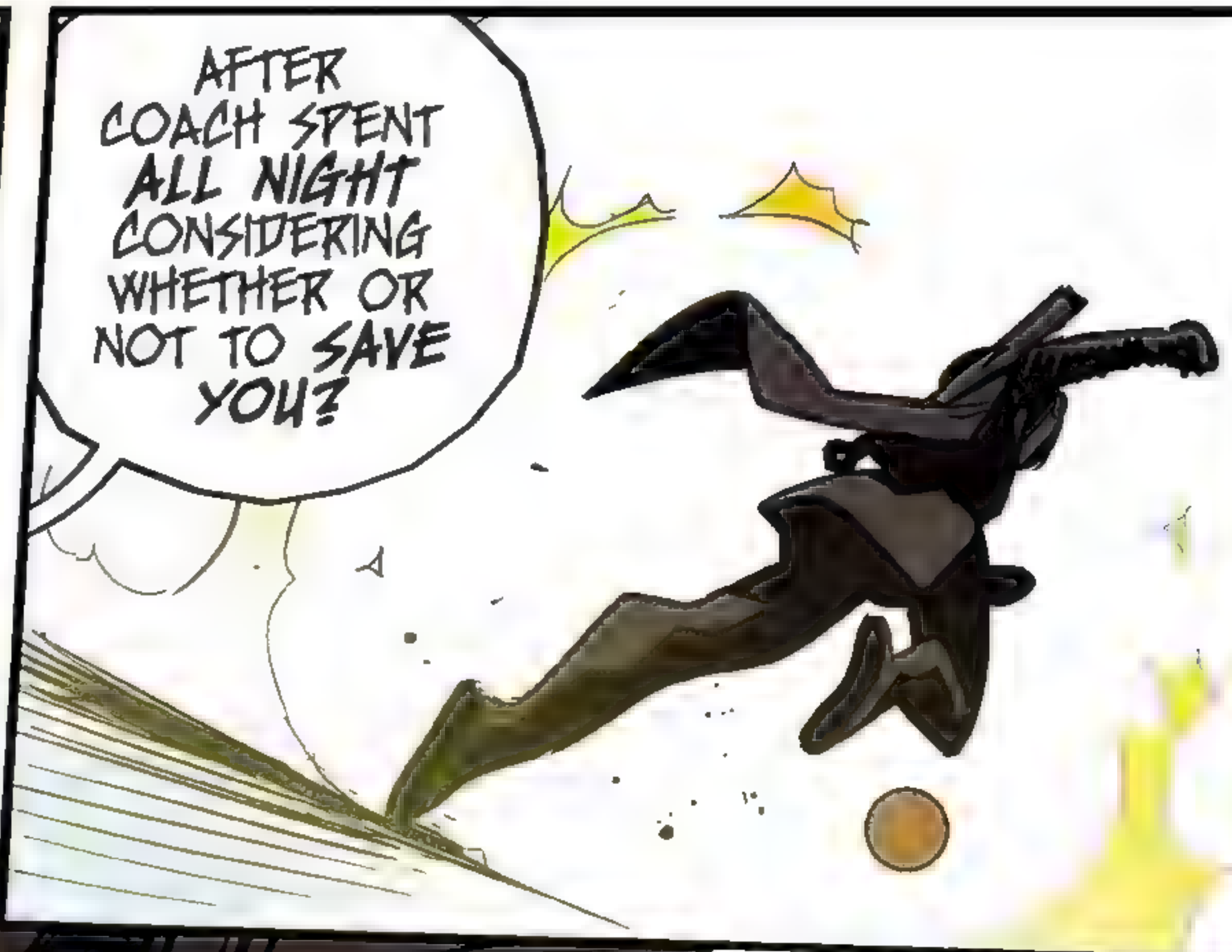






WHEN THAT BRAT FROM THE BUBBLE CITIES PAID US TO TRAP YOU IN THAT BUILDING, I KNEW IT WOULD BE EASY WATER. BUT THEN...

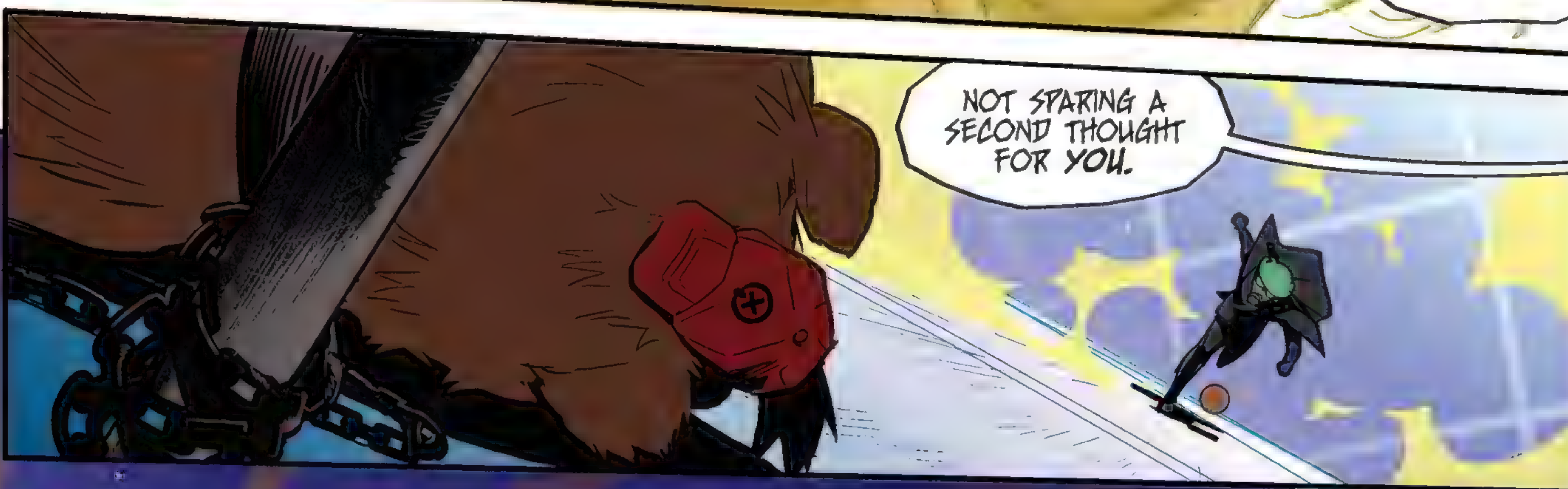
...I FELT RAGE. YOU MADE IT ALL THE WAY HERE TO FLOUNDER AT THE FIRST STEP?



AFTER COACH SPENT ALL NIGHT CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO SAVE YOU?

OOPSIE! THAT'S THE SECRET!

WE GAVE HIM THE KEY TO HIS CHAINS...AND HE JUST SAT THERE, STARING AT THE BOTTLE ALL NIGHT WHILE YOU NEARLY DIED.



NOT SPARING A SECOND THOUGHT FOR YOU.



NO...COACH CARES. WE'RE...A FAMILY...

IN THIS GAME? IF IT HELPED ME, I'D TURN UP THE GAS ON MY OWN TEAMMATES.

YOU'D LET...YOUR TEAMMATES... DIE?



YOU DON'T GIVE UP YOUR ADVANTAGE FOR ANYONE. COACH TAUGHT ME THAT.



GOOD TO KNOW. THANKS FOR CONFIRMING OUR STRATEGY WILL WORK.

NOW!



WE'RE  
TEAM PODUNK,  
AND THIS IS WHAT WE  
DO! IMMUNE THANKS  
TO MY POISON  
DARTS...

THANKS  
FOR TRYING TO  
MURDER US WITH  
YOUR POISON  
TRAPS LAST  
NIGHT.

IT'S HOW  
WE LEARNED  
THE TWIN'S DARTS  
COUNTERACT  
YOUR GAS.

WE'RE  
NOT FAMILY.  
BUT THERE IS  
ONE THING WE  
HAVE IN COMMON.  
EVERY SINGLE  
ONE OF US  
HATES  
YOU...

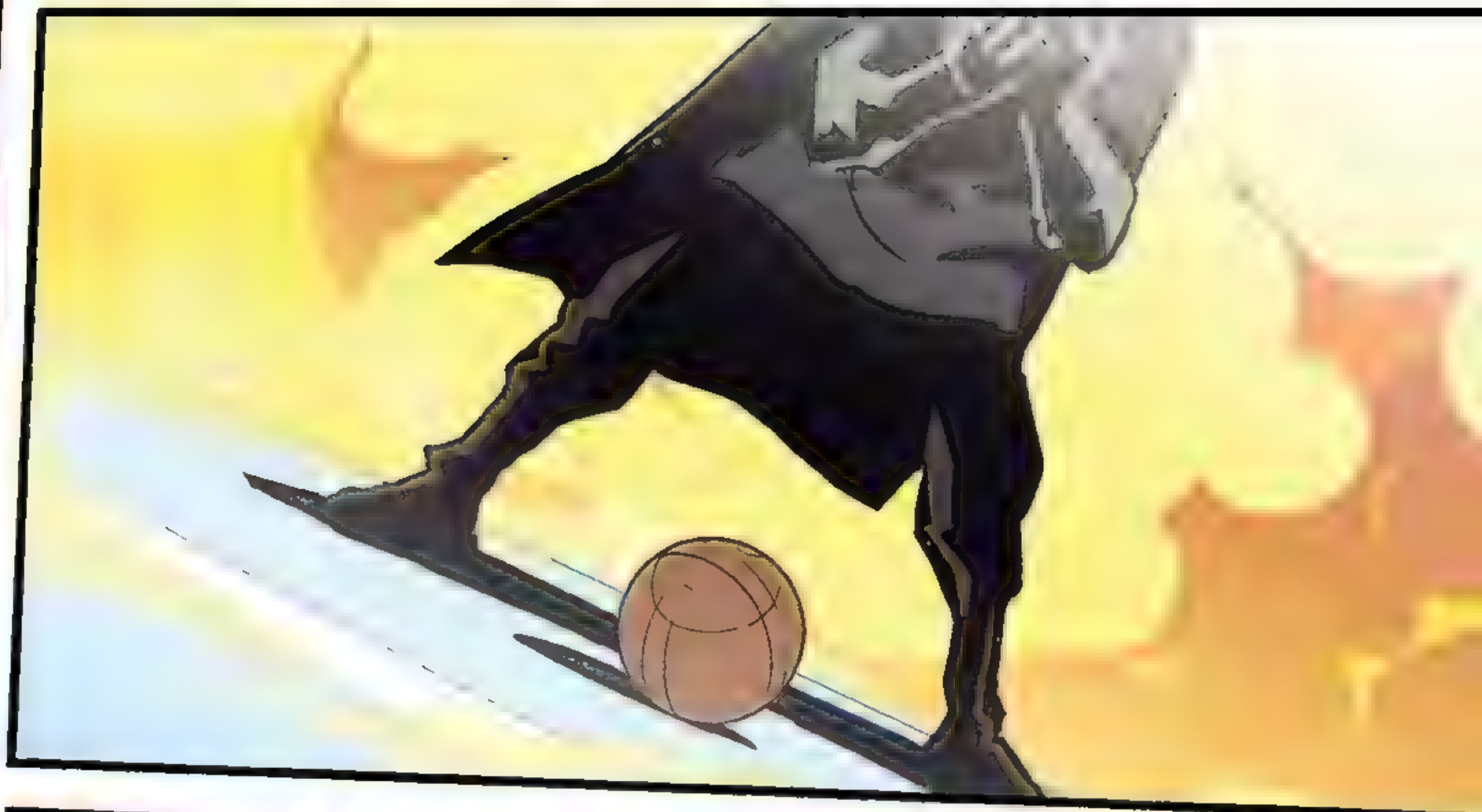
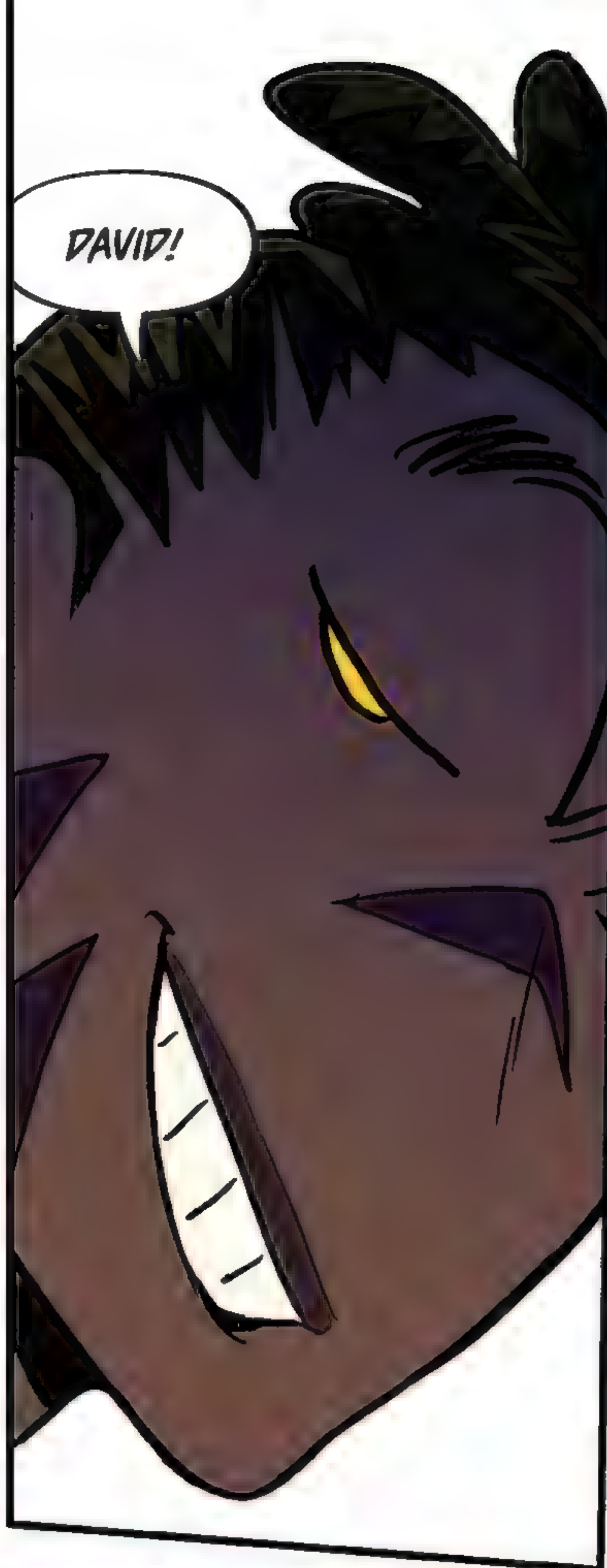
...AND  
A WHOLE  
TEAM READY  
TO KILL  
YOU!

THUNK  
THUNK

...AND  
WE'RE GOING  
TO WIN JUST  
TO SPITE  
YOU!











IT'S THE TYRANT'S SURPRISE! AND HE'S GOING WITH A CLASSIC.

AHHH!

I'M NOT LOSING. NOT TO YOU!

HOLY MOLY! ARSENIC TRUE JUST RELEASED HIS NEUROTOXIN, NOT SEEN SINCE THE MATCH AT HOWLER'S DEN!

THERE'S ONLY THIRTY SECONDS BEFORE FULL DEATH SETS IN!

STOP, ARSENIC! THEY'RE HITTING OUR MASKS!

THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR THE RED MIASMA! ARSENIC!

ARSENIC!

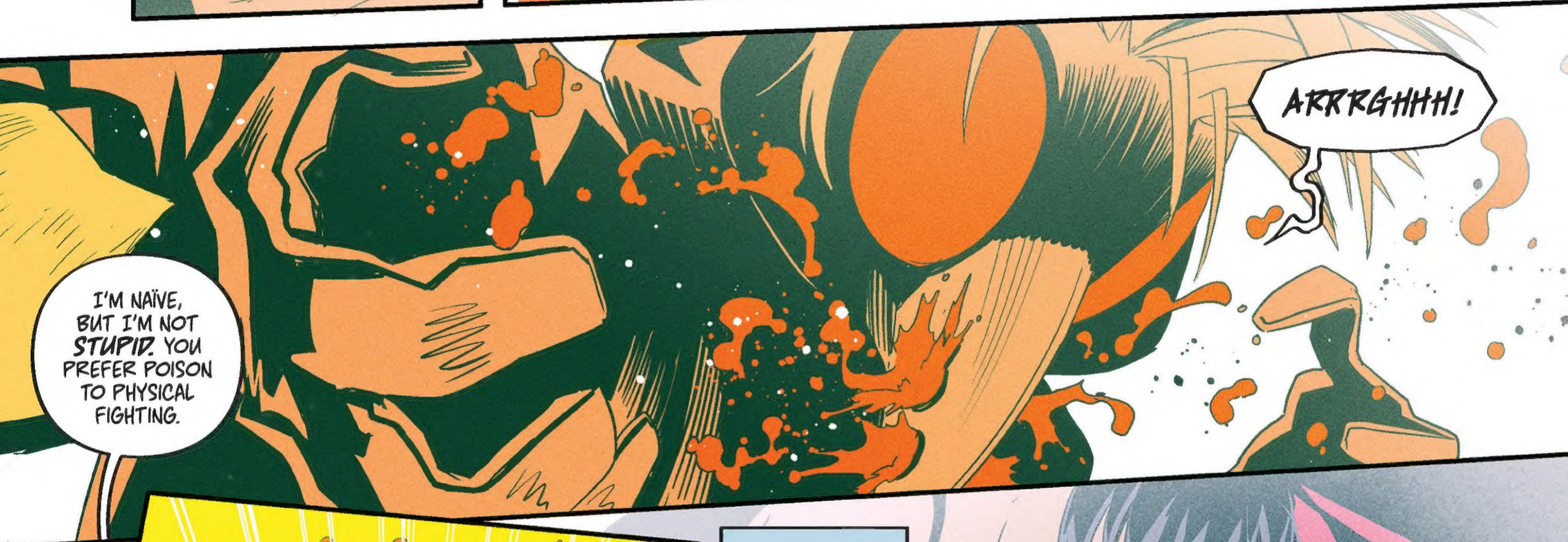
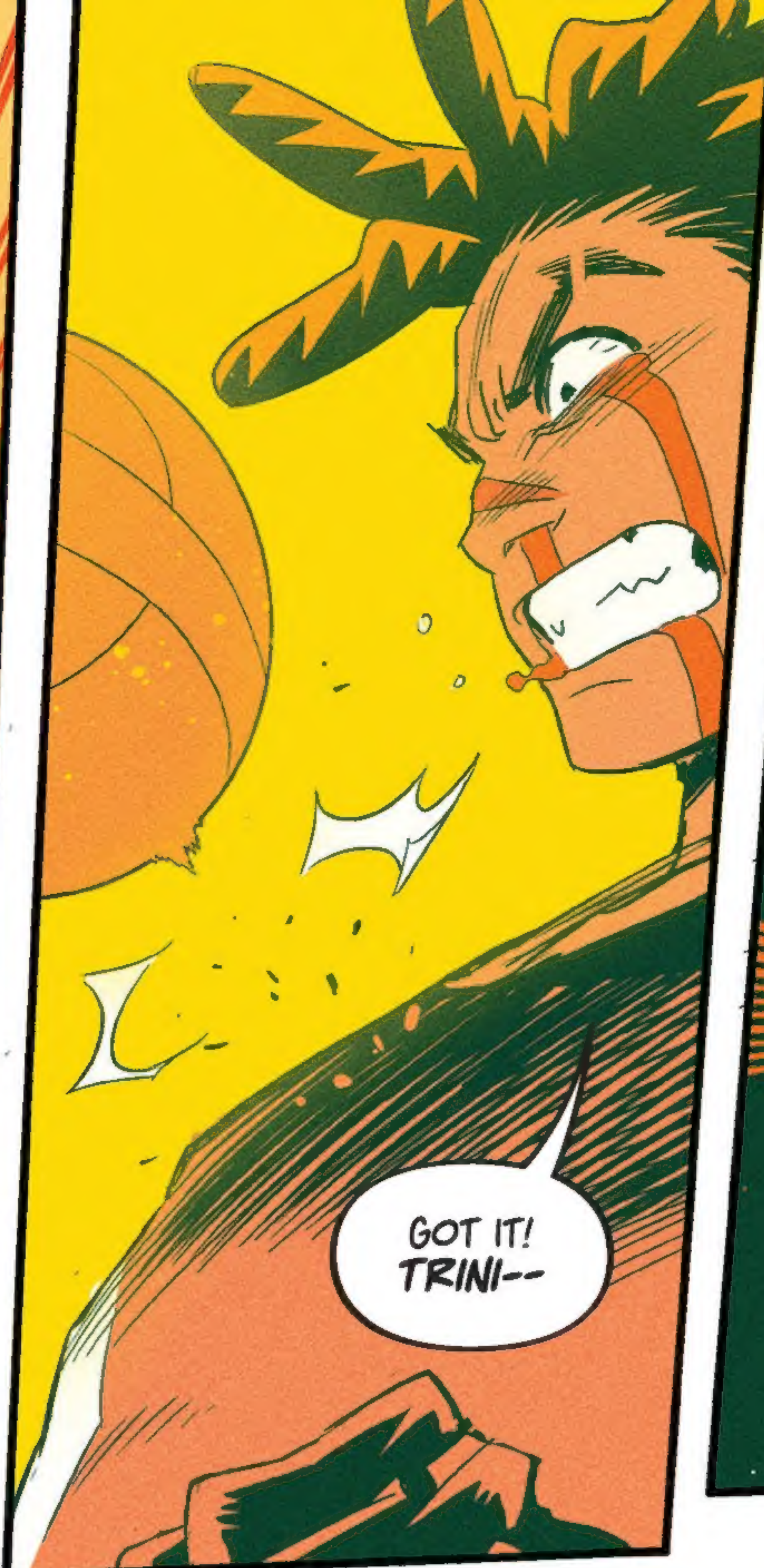
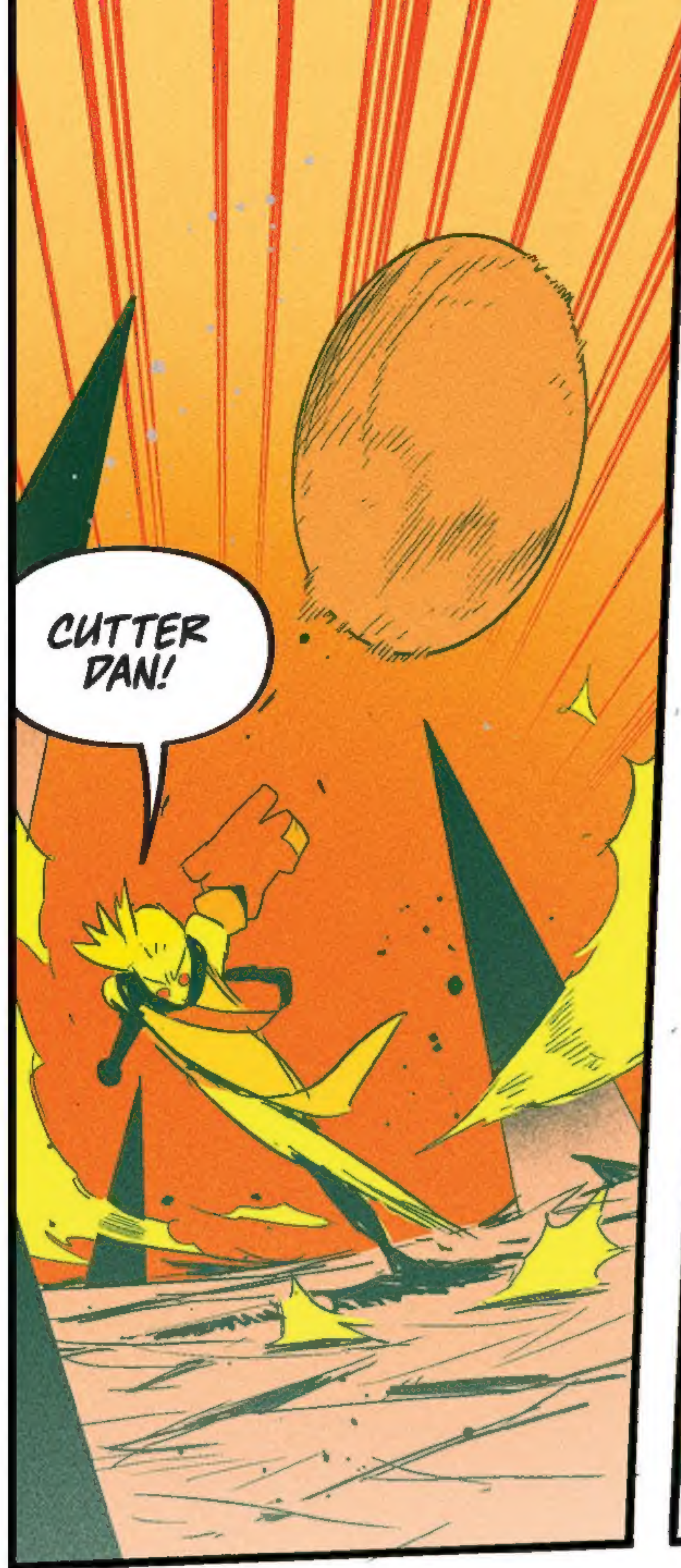
YOU STUPID LITTLE GIRL. WASTING COACH'S TIME. THINKING YOU GET TO HAVE FRIENDS IN A SPORT MADE OF KILLERS.

THAT'S NOT HOW THE WORLD WORKS!

YOU DON'T GET TO SKIP THE PAIN! YOU DON'T WIN WITH FRIENDSHIP, AND KINDNESS, AND CUTE LIL' PUPPIES!

REAL WINNERS KNOW ATTACHMENTS DRAG YOU DOWN, DOWN, DOWN... BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE AT THE TOP!









NO!

THE SPIKES  
ARE STILL COMING,  
BUT THE POISON IS  
CLEARING WITH TRUE'S  
ANTIDOTE...

TRINI!

GOT  
IT!

SECOND  
STRIKER,  
BRINGING IT  
HOME!

WHOooooooooo!

WOW! PODUNK  
TOOK OUT THE OTHER TEAM'S  
ONLY DEFENSE AGAINST THEIR OWN  
WEAPONS! WITH NO WAY TO USE  
THEIR POISON, PLAGUE TOWN  
IS FINISHED!

WITH NINE  
POINTS, PODUNK  
MOVES UP IN THE  
TOURNAMENT!



THIS IS A MESSAGE TO ALL MY BELOVED TYRANTS.

A NEW AMUSEMENT HAS BEEN BROUGHT BEFORE ME. A GAME WITHIN A GAME HAS BEEN PROPOSED, AND IT IS ONE I THINK WE SHALL ALL ENJOY.

EVERY MATCH THE PODUNK TEAM PLAYS IN WILL HAVE A NEW TYRANT'S SURPRISE. ONE THAT TARGETS THAT TEAM...AND THEIR CAPTAIN.

IGNORE THE FIRST STRIKER. CONCENTRATE ON THE SECOND. A SEAT BY MY SIDE...

...TO THE TYRANT THAT KILLS THE GIRL FROM PODUNK.

**STATUS:** Rising Rookie  
**RECORD:** Only Amateur Team Captain in Queen Mob's National Tournament

**BEST MOVE:**  
ATK/ 1500

**The ICE STORM:** stabbing the enemy so fast with her ice pick it looks like a blizzard!

Wow, what'd Trini do to piss off the DREAD RULER of the AMERICAN WASTE? Find out, and see who SURVIVES in the next issue of I HEART SKULL-CRUSHER!



***I HEART SKULL-CRUSHER! #4***  
**ON SALE JUNE 2024**

